

## Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 NEAE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 OMB-01 ACDA-05 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /090 W

----- 055343

O R 121815Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7682

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL TANGIER

USMISSION USUN

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

FOSIF ROTA

COMSIXTHFLT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 0797

USCINCEUR AND CINCUSNAVEUR ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SP SS AG MR EG

SUBJECT: SAHARA: GOM OCCUPIES MAHBES AND GUELTA

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1. GOM OCCUPIES MAHBES AND GUELTA. GOM ANNOUNCED AFTERNOON FEB. 12 THAT MAHBES "ENTIRELY CONTROLLED" BY MOROCCAN FORCES. ANNOUNCEMENT, CARRIED BY OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY MAP, QUOTED COL. DLIMI, SOUTHERN MILITARY COMMANDER, AS MAKING CLAIM. THIS CONFIRMATION FOLLOWS CONFUSION OVER LAST TWO DAYS AS TO WHETHER OCCUPATION HAD ACTUALLY OCCURRED, AS REPORTED EARLIER BY NEWS AGENCIES AND SOME GOM SOURCES (RABAT 0749). CONFUSION FURTHER ABETTED BY STORY IN SEMI-OFFICIAL AFTERNOON MAROC SOIR FEB 12, WHICH CARRIED DENIAL OF PRESS REPORTS OF OCCUPATION OF MAHBES.

2. SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS ALSO ANNOUNCED MORNING FEB. 12 THAT MOROCCAN TROOPS HAD OCCUPIED GUELTA, FORMER POLISARIO STRONGPOINT LOCATED SOUTH OF BOU CRAA PHOSPHATE CENTER NEAR MAURITANIAN BORDER. OCCUPATION, WHICH EFFECTED "WITHOUT MEETING ANY OPPOSITION," REPORTED TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE FEB. 11. SEMI-OFFICIAL MAROC SOIR HEADLINED STORY AND NOTED THAT GUELTA SITUATED IN REGION WHERE ALGERIAN ELEMENTS HAD BEEN LOCATED. ARTICLE SURMISED THAT ALGERIAN UNITS IN THIS REGION HAD BEEN FORCED TO WITHDRAW IN LIGHT OF RECENT GOM ADVANCES IN THE NORTH.

3. COMMENT. APPARENT GOM HESITATION OVER ANNOUNCING PUBLICLY THE CAPTURE OF POLITICALLY SENSITIVE MAHBES MAY HAVE BEEN A REFLECTION OF SOME INDECISION AT POLITICAL LEVELS. TERSE ANNOUNCEMENT DID NOT SPECIFY WHETHER ANY RESISTANCE ENCOUNTERED, PERHAPS A SIGN THAT CITY WAS EVACUTATED BEFOREHAND BY ALGERIANS AND POLISARIO. ALGERIAN REACTION TO THIS DEVELOPMENT WILL BE AWAITED WITH INTEREST AND COULD INDICATE WHETHER TURNOVER WAS IN ANY WAY LINKED TO PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS ON NEGOTIATING FRONT. AS WE HAVE REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, WE HAVE HAD NO INDICATION HERE THUS FAR THAT ANY EXPLICIT ACCORD HAD BEEN REACHEDFOR GOM OCCUPATION THIS SITE.  
NEUMANN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMED FORCES, MAHBES, INVASIONS, COMBAT OPERATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976RABAT00797  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
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**Subject:** SAHARA: GOM OCCUPIES MAHBES AND GUELTA CONFIDENTIAL  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PBOR, MO, SP, SS, AG, MR, EG  
**To:** STATE ALGIERS  
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